

"WOODCRAFT"

For Boy Scouts and Others

By J. Baden Powell, Owen Jones and Marcus Woodward. Illustrated with Sketches from Life by Colbron Pearce

Woodcraft is the most fascinating subject in the world. It is the most important field of study for the Scout. Even a little knowledge of woodcraft will help you to find your way through unknown country; to steer a true course with or without aid of compass, sun, moon, or stars; to pick up and follow a trail; to read messages of good news or bad in the movements of birds or animals; to solve mysteries and read riddles by clues of bent grasses or stray feathers; to foretell weather by the look of the clouds and the feel of the winds; and to find water and food.

This is an invaluable book for every boy, whether a scout or not, who would like to learn about woodcraft and its meaning.

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Richmond, Va., Texarkana, Ark.-Tex.

me and my failures. Right here I expect to make good."

"Splendid!" I exclaimed. "George, if your mind is committed to that undertaking, you will win. You have talent; few men possess the gifts that you enjoy. The climb will be difficult; the road is steep, but not so precipitous that you can't climb it to success."

"Come into the kitchen and have something to eat. Excuse me, and I'll see how much change there is in the house; I fear there is not much; it's too near the end of the month. Mother, how much change have you?"

"Not a cent, except the church offering for tomorrow. Why, what do you want?"

"A little change to lend an old friend. Rachel, dear, have you any money in your bank?"

"Yes, father; do you want to invest it for me?"

"Yes, dear; lend it to me and I'll invest it in the Kingdom."

"I hope it'll turn out better than the money you invested in the gold mine."

Soon she came running with her bank and poured the contents into my hand.

"Here, husband," said Mrs. Fox; "we'll borrow our collection money and put in double a week from tomorrow. How much have you, nickels, dimes and quarters?"

"And pennies," added Rachel.

"Two dollars and sixty cents," I replied. "George, I'm ashamed that I can't muster any more cash; but it's all there is in the house."

"I dislike to take the last cent you have, but it means the beginning of a new life for me. I never shall forget your kindness and cordiality, Fox. You're the first man to give me a cordial greeting since I came out of prison. Such things help to nerve me for the fight upward which I'm going—no, the fight which I'm now waging."

"Poor George!" I exclaimed as the door closed behind him and I hurried into my overcoat to go to the funeral. "How much it does take to bring some men to themselves! George has at last come to himself. What a pity he did not do this years ago! What joy it would have given his dear old mother, who died with a broken heart when her only son was sentenced to the penitentiary."

"Have you read the articles in the Journal by the new writer?" inquired Deacon Wallace at the close of a Wednesday evening service a few weeks later.

"Yes," I said. "He has something worth while to say on the moral and religious issues of the day."

"The queerest thing to me about his writings," said Mrs. James, "is that he signs the same name to his articles as that scapegrace, George Rendel, who was sent to the penitentiary two years ago for forgery. He'd been drinking and gambling at some gathering in the home of one of his wealthy parishioners. When he lost and couldn't pay up, he drew a check on another man's bank account to pay the winner. My husband was on the jury that convicted him; some were in favor of acquitting him. But my husband said: 'Any man who couldn't take a glass at a social gathering and stop before he went too far should be shut up for the protection of both himself and his friends.'"

"Suppose," I said, "that this is George Rendel trying to begin life over again."

"Well, Mr. James will certainly stop his paper, if they're employing ex-convicts to write stuff for decent folks to read."

"I should say," answered Deacon Wallace, "that we who call ourselves Christians should call up the editor of the Journal and tell him that we greatly enjoy reading the articles by George Rendel, and hope that they will continue to be a feature of the paper."

It was agreed to act on this suggestion, and in the next twenty-four hours twenty-one people who had been present at that Wednesday evening service telephoned the editor commending Rendel's articles. As a result the editor increased his wages, and soon the new writer was recognized as a leader of thought.

Years have passed, and the books written by George Rendel are in every public library in the country. In many homes his latest volumes adorn the center tables. He has written a score or more, which the best publishers have been glad to handle for him. Mrs. James has two of his latest books, and frankly admits that she enjoys reading them. Mr. James says:

"I didn't think that there was any good in that prodigal. But by his scathing denunciation of the social sins of society he has driven drinking and gambling from many an aristocratic circle in this city."—Frank Hampton Fox, D. D., in *The Christian Endeavor World*.

EXTRACTS FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLICATION COMMITTEE.

With sincere gratitude to God for evidences of His favor upon our efforts to serve the Church, we submit this record of the activities of the Executive Committee of Publication for the year ending March 31, 1917.

Our sales summary shows a slight increase in total volume over previous years, but it has been a period of peculiar perplexities and difficulties. There has been an abnormal rise in the price of paper and in all other material we purchase, but it has not been possible to secure a corresponding advance in our selling prices, with the result that we show a smaller net profit than for several years.

The Texarkana Depository has had a good year, and a steadily growing volume of business indicates they are rendering a service of increasing value to their constituency.

The new building at Texarkana has greatly added to the facility with which they can serve their patrons, and the rental revenue from the second and third floors makes the occupancy of the spacious first floor but little more expensive than the cramped and inadequate space formerly rented at \$1,800 per year.

Below is a report of our sales for the year:

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Sales at Richmond: | |
| Books | \$ 74,690.81 |
| Periodicals | 118,584.03 |
| | \$193,274.84 |
| Sales at Texarkana: | |
| Books | \$ 35,017.31 |

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| Periodicals | 23,059.00 | 58,076.31 |
| Total for year | \$251,351.15 | |

We have had an encouraging increase in the circulation of our Sabbath-school periodicals, and a careful review of the records of about 3,600 schools shows that they are, in the main, very loyal in the matter of using the publications of their own Church.

A few schools report they are using Graded Lesson Helps from other sources, and quite a number report the use of some story papers published by commercial houses. Although faced with steadily rising costs in the production of our papers, we have refrained from advancing our prices until absolutely compelled to do so. Practically every other publisher in America advanced prices on January 1, 1917, and many of them raised their prices during 1915 and 1916. We shall make an advance in our periodical prices on July 1, 1917, but it will be so distributed that it will not impose a serious burden on our schools.

Graded Lesson Helps.

There is no longer any occasion for using Graded Lesson Helps from outside sources, as we now offer a series of Departmental Graded Helps which meet the demands of the most enthusiastic advocate of graded lessons from both pedagogical and psychological standpoints, with the added advantage of being free from fundamental doctrinal errors.

The series of Graded Helps will be enlarged on October 1, 1917, by the addition of an Intermediate Quarterly and a Teacher's Help for the same grade.

The further publication of the closely graded series of lesson helps which required the use of seventeen different lessons at one time will be abandoned by the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., Northern Church, on October 1, 1917, and all their schools will be urged to adopt the Departmental Graded Series of Lessons which is now published by the joint co-operation of the Presbyterian and Reformed churches of the United States and Canada. The course of lessons we furnish preserves the best features of the old closely graded series by providing special lessons for groups of pupils of similar age and advancement, but eliminates the features which were found impracticable and unworkable in schools of average size and equipment.

The so-called "Eyndicate Treatment" of the Closely Graded seventeen-year series has passed entirely into the hands of a new syndicate made up of the boards of the Methodist and Congregational Churches. The "Closely Graded" lesson helps issued by the old syndicate have been withdrawn, and an entirely new series involving many changes in subjects and treatment has been issued by the new syndicate.

Such of our schools as are now using "Closely Graded" lesson helps will hereafter be compelled to use material the publishers do not think worthy of republication, and if they attempt to

continue the use of this series of lessons they will have to use material published by agencies not at all in sympathy with Presbyterian traditions, ideals and faith.

Our people need hardly be told what this new grouping means. It is sufficient to say that among Protestant churches these are the farthest removed from those sound and conservative views of Scripture teaching for which our Church has always earnestly contended. Those who use our Departmental Graded Lessons may be assured that these lessons, prepared by the writers of our own faith, and under our own editorial supervision, are not open to the objections just noted.

Co-operative Work.

It has been our pleasure to co-operate during the year with all the agencies of the Church in plans for the advancement of the kingdom.

We have published over 150,000 tracts and leaflets on stewardship, to aid the Campaign Committee in its efforts to induce all the churches to adopt the Assembly's Plan for Church Finances, and have shared with the other Executive Committees in the general expense of this committee.

We have provided literature to promote the Family Altar League, which received such cordial endorsement at the hands of the last Assembly, and have furnished free lists of subjects for the mid-week prayer meetings and topics for young people's societies' weekly meetings, and the church papers all arranged to provide weekly expositions of these topics. Many churches have injected new life and interest into their mid-week services through the use of these new topic lists. We have aided the Assembly's Training School by furnishing two members of the faculty, providing office space for the dean, and aiding in their financial and publicity campaigns.

In co-operation with the other Executive Committees we have shared in the support of the Woman's Auxiliary and have promoted the work of this efficient agency as opportunity offered. In the publication and circulation of the Missionary Survey we have had a share in promoting the work of all the Church agencies, and this splendid educational journal should be taken and read in all the homes of the Church.

Activities of Field Workers.

No statement or tabulation can adequately express the work of our field workers. (Continued on page 18)

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